

REMARKS

Before turning to the objections and specific grounds of rejection, it would appear to be useful to recap the technical foundation of the present invention. The instant application relates to a laundry detergent composition which incorporates a quick dissolving, free flowing cyclodextrin in a granular form. The cyclodextrin is capable of removing malodor from laundered items during the washing process.

Claim Objections

Claim 1 is objected to for informalities as stated at page 3 of the Office Action. The Office Action provides suggestions on how to address these informalities. Applicants have amended the claims in accordance with these suggestions.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner rejects Claims 1 - 3 and 7 - 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,783,552 issued to Trinh (hereinafter "Trinh") for the reasons of record stated on pages 3 - 5 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Trinh teaches utilizing small particle cyclodextrin having particle sizes less than about 12 microns. [See Trinh Abstract; column 1, lines 54 - 66; and column 2, lines 14 - 23].

In order to sustain an obviousness rejection, "the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations." M.P.E.P. 2143. "The prior art must suggest the desirability of the claimed invention." "A prior art reference must be considered in its entirety, i.e., as a whole, including portions that would lead away from the claimed invention." M.P.E.P. 2141.02 citing *W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc. v. Garlock, Inc.*, 721 F.2d 1540, 220 U.S.P.Q. 303 (Fed. Cir. 1983), *cert. denied* 469 U.S. 851 (1984).

Applicants invention as claimed relates *inter alia* to a laundry detergent product including cyclodextrin granules having a particle size in the range of from about 100 microns to about 1200 microns. Trinh does not teach or suggest laundry detergent products utilizing cyclodextrin having particle sizes in the ranges claimed by Applicants. The cyclodextrin particle sizes taught by Trinh are less than about 12 microns. Furthermore, referring to column 2, lines 18 - 21, Trinh teaches that "*for any use that requires fast odor control, the particle size reduction is essential to see the full benefit of the cyclodextrin.*" Hence, Trinh teaches away from the present invention.

As the obviousness rejection is overcome, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the claims in the instant application.

SUMMARY

This response is responsive to the Office Action dated January 29, 2004. As, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) has been overcome, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdraw of this rejection and allowance of the claims remaining in the instant application.

Respectfully submitted,

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